

our horses, and were each set upon by a couple of natives, who seemed to think it impossible for an Englishman to reach the top without hoisting him up. Partially availing ourselves of their assistance, we arrived there after a little trouble (for the grass was wet and slippery), and found ourselves on the brink of a tremendous crater-like gorge, occupied by a bright rainbow, far, far, below us. A magnificent sight it must be in fine weather; but the clouds filled the valley beneath, so that its bottom was hardly discernible, and clung obstinately to the mountains above, only for a few moments breaking to reveal Pico Grande, the highest point of the island. Being by this time wet through, we thought it advisable to retrace our steps. Riding down hills is generally worse than riding up them. Here it was awful work, but we at last accomplished it without mishap. We returned by a different route, crossing the valley before mentioned much lower down, over a fine bridge and a half-finished causeway leading to a level new road—a gratifying change after the ups and downs we had encountered. I went to visit a gentleman (Dr. O’Herlehy) who, I had been kindly informed by Mr. Johnson, was great bird-fancier, and in whose house I hoped to see examples of the curious variety of the Blackcap (*Curruca heinekeni*, Jard. & Selby) and other Madeiran birds alive. Unfortunately the Doctor was not at home, and, what made it worse, had the key of his pets with him. Then, following my companions, we went on board ship; and about an hour after sunset, amid the blaze of blue-lights, the ‘Tamar’ steamed away, and Madeira vanished into a memory.

Elveden, February 28, 1863.

XX.—*Note on the Eastern-Asiatic Thrushes of the Genus*

Turdus. By P. L. SLATER.

IN Mr. Swinhoe’s paper on the ornithology of Hongkong, Macao, and Canton (‘Ibis,’ 1861, p. 23), he mentions “a species of Red-wing, with grey-olive back in the male, and orange-tinted flanks,” as “abundant, especially in the Camoëns Garden, Macao, where they were nesting.” Unfortunately the specimen forwarded to me as supposed to be of this species did

not really belong to it, but proved to be the young of *Turdus cardis*, as I stated in a note to Mr. Swinhoe's paper (*ibid.* p. 37). In the large series of Chinese skins, however, which Mr. Swinhoe has brought with him on his recent return to this country, are several examples of this fine Thrush from Macao, which fully vindicate its claims to be considered as a new and very distinct species. For this very interesting addition to the Asiatic group of true Thrushes, I have Mr. Swinhoe's kind permission to propose a name; and I therefore call it, from its discovery in the Camoens Garden,

TURDUS HORTULORUM, sp. nov.

♂ Supra obscure cinereus, alarum pennis extus fuscis; subtus albus, fascia pectorali lata plumbea; abdominis lateribus et subalaribus læte cinnamomeo-rufis; gutture laterali et fascia pectoris nigro maculatis; rostro et pedibus flavis.

♀ Supra fuscescens; fascia pectorali nulla, sed in hac parte, sicut in gulæ lateribus nigro maculata, rostro fusco.

Long. tot. 8·5, alæ 4·5, caudæ 3·0 poll. Angl. et dec.

Hab. In Chinâ meridionali.

The rich cinnamon under wing-coverts render this fine species of Thrush easily distinguishable from every other known Chinese species, except *Turdus cardis* in its immature dress; but in *Turdus cardis*, of which Mr. Swinhoe has a very large series, the flanks invariably show black spots more or less. In *Turdus chrysolaus*, which has similar cinnamomeous flanks, the under wing-coverts are pale cinereous.

Mr. Swinhoe supplies me with the following extracts from his note-book concerning this Thrush:—

“*Amoy*, 18th Jan. 1859.—Shot a new species of Thrush this morning, with a grey breast. It was hopping about among the dead leaves of the garden picking up worms. It uttered to itself occasionally a low chuckle.

“Cinereous-breasted Red-wing, ♂. Length $8\frac{1}{2}$; wing $4\frac{1}{2}$; tail 3; tarsus 1·1; mid toe 1·2; hind toe ·7; bill, along culmen, ·7; to gape, 1·1; irides deep hazel; legs ochreous flesh-colour; bill yellowish brown, with yellow rictus; upper parts deep smoke-grey, tinged on the head and back with olive-green; wings and tail wood-brown, more or less tinged with olive;

throat yellowish white, spotted with light blackish arrow-heads, which darken and form into a line on each side, with a light orange patch on each side of under nape; breast smoke-grey, blotched with faded brown; under wing-coverts, flanks, tibiae, and a line across the lower breast fine orange-buff; bill and under tail-coverts pure white."

"*Amoy, 6th March, 1861*.—Another male of the above, with the breast-band not fully developed; bill light brown; legs and toes brownish flesh-colour, darkest at joints of toes; angle and inside of mouth orange-yellow."

"*Amoy, 2nd April, 1861*.—Old female of the above procured, without breast-band. Length 8; wing 4.4; tail 3. Bill dusky yellow ochre, patched on the tips and base of upper mandible with light brown; angle and inside of mouth bright yellow; eyelids pale yellow; legs, toes, and claws brownish ochre, washed with yellow, conspicuously so on the under tarsi. This, on dissection, proved an old female, with numerous eggs in ovary; epithelium of gizzard of a dusky yellow, rugose, containing remains of grubs and beetles."

In my article on the geographical distribution of the genus *Turdus*, published in this Journal in 1861 ('*Ibis*,' 1861, p. 277), I have allotted only six species of Thrush to the column of China. Mr. Swinhoe's discovery of the present species adds a seventh to the list; an eighth will be *Turdus ruficollis* (which Mr. Swinhoe's Red-tailed Fieldfare turns out to be*, not *T. naumanni* as I had anticipated); and a ninth, *Turdus naumanni*, of which a fine adult Chinese example has been already figured in last year's volume (Pl. X.). Mr. Swinhoe's explorations in Formosa have also resulted in the discovery of five species of Thrush visiting that island. I have a specimen of *Turdus chrysolaus*, from Manilla, lent me by Mr. Gould, which further extends the range of the true *Turdi* (as visitants) in a westerly direction. The present amended table will show at a glance the general distribution of the Thrushes of Eastern Asia, as far as we are at present acquainted with it—the names printed in *italics* signifying that the species are only winter visitants to the countries to which they refer.

* See above, p. 196.

Japan.	N. China, from Shanghai northwards.	S. China, from Shanghai southwards.	Formosa.	Luzon.
fuscatus	fuscatus naumanni <i>ruficollis</i>	<i>fuscatus</i> <i>naumanni</i>	<i>fuscatus</i> <i>naumanni</i>	
daulias pallens chrysolaus	daulias pallens chrysolaus	<i>daulias</i> <i>pallens</i> <i>chrysolaus</i> hortulorum	<i>daulias</i> <i>pallens</i> <i>chrysolaus</i>	<i>chrysolaus.</i>
cardis sibiricus	cardis sibiricus	<i>cardis</i> <i>sibiricus</i> mandarinus.		

XXI.—*The Ornithology of Formosa, or Taiwan.*

By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S., F.G.S., &c.

(Plate V.)

At the time when our forefathers, of blessed memory, tattooed their bodies a sky-blue, and ranged the woods at large in a state of nature, and all Europe was sunk in savagedom, we are informed by Chinese records that certain of the Mongolian hordes had settled down into partial civilization, had built themselves houses, constructed boats for the lakes and rivers, and small coasting-vessels for the sea, and, in fact, had already commenced to make progress in the development of arts and sciences. The children of the future empire were then divided into numerous petty states, each with its king, but all united in one common protective federation. At last one ambitious monarch, possessed of more power than the rest, by intrigues and conquest, absorbed all the other petty states, and established an empire, which, in the course of several centuries, changed hands a number of times. But we do not here intend to follow the Chinese through their various dynastic struggles: we pass them all at a leap, and pick ourselves up in the dynasty before the reigning one, viz. that of the Ming; for it was during this period that the Chinese first became aware of the existence of such an island as Formosa. They had had sea-going vessels for centuries, and were in the constant habit, as Marco Polo